

"This is going to take some getting used to," Cleary said. "He was bigger than life and that always leaves a vacancy. He was a man of stature. He could be admired by a great many people."

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTION VOTING STANDARDS ACT OF 2001

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Election Voting Standards Act of 2001. Representatives LYNN RIVERS, JOHN LARSON, NICK LAMPSON, MARK UDAL and ANTHONY WEINER join me in sponsoring this legislation.

I am not going to re-hash the flaws in voting equipment that were so publicly exposed in the last election. Our goal with this legislation is to offer a method to improve the accuracy, integrity, and security of voting products and systems used in Federal elections.

This legislation establishes a Commission led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop performance-based standards for all voting equipment and systems. These voluntary performance-based standards would be technology neutral, but would set a minimum level of performance that all voting equipment should meet. The Commission would also establish corollary testing and certification criteria to determine the conformance of voting products and systems to the performance-based standards. Finally the legislation establishes a National Election Systems Standards Laboratory. This independent lab would perform research in areas such as human factors in the design and application of voting systems and remote access voting systems that would utilize the Internet.

When election technologies in the 1960's and 1970's began to use computers, we didn't initiate an effort to consider the implications of computer use for national policy in the administration of Federal elections. Although the use of computer-based voting equipment and systems has increased dramatically, there is no single entity that identifies important technical problems in Federal election administration, let alone providing the means to develop solutions to those problems. This deficiency inhibits the conduct of necessary scientific, engineering and technical standards research, prevents the orderly development of alternatives for policy selection, and provides no center for dissemination of technical standards for computer security, integrity, and accuracy to local officials charged with the conduct of registration and voting. This simple lack of Federal oversight puts at risk the reliability and credibility of national elections. This bill can remedy the situation.

I believe that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) can play a role in filling the existing gap. NIST has a 100-year history of developing standards for Federal agencies and works closely with industry in the development of measurement standards. In addition, NIST has long been active in the area of voting technologies. In 1975, NIST in conjunction with the General Accounting Office issued a report entitled *Effective Use of Com-*

puting Technology in Vote Tallying. The report recommended improvements in the procedures used to design and develop computer programs used for vote-tallying, the extensive use of audit trails and other internal control techniques, and additional documentation to verify the results of elections. The report concluded, "Coordinated and systematic research on election equipment and systems, independent of any immediate return on investment, is needed." Again in 1988, NIST issued another report entitled, *Accuracy, Integrity, and Security in Computerized Vote-Tallying*, which again made a number of recommendations to improve computer based voting systems. Among the recommendations was that the use of pre-scored punch card voting systems be eliminated. Unfortunately, the recommendations of both these reports were largely ignored.

Given NIST's track record in developing standards in concert with outside groups and their expertise in computerized voting systems, I believe that NIST is uniquely positioned to develop the required performance-based standards, and an independent certification process.

I want to make it clear that these standards would be voluntary. This legislation does not mandate that local authorities that are responsible for elections use equipment that meets these performance-based standards. However, we hope that local authorities would use these standards as an objective measure of the accuracy, integrity, and security of their voting equipment and systems. I believe that with this system of standards and certification procedures that the public would be assured that voting systems are fair and accurate.

This legislation represents a first-step in addressing this issue and it is an important first step. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress, the Administration and outside groups to improve this bill. I believe that we all have the same goal, to improve the accuracy, integrity and security of our voting systems.

SALUTING THE COUGARS

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the East Bladen High School men's basketball team for their extraordinary accomplishment this month. Their spirit and determination throughout their 25-3 season has been an inspiration to us all.

On Friday, March 9, the Cougars defeated Lexington High School 75-65 to win the North Carolina state 2-A men's basketball title for the second time in school history. This is truly an amazing achievement for Coach Alvin Thompson, his coaching staff and the entire Cougar team. This marked the third consecutive year that a team from the Waccamaw Conference has won North Carolina's 2-A championship and brought the trophy home to southeastern North Carolina.

Throughout the year, the Cougars have represented the students and faculty of East Bladen High School well by sticking together and demonstrating good sportsmanship. Coach Thompson has instilled in his players

the ethic of dedication, sacrifice, and teamwork in the pursuit of excellence, and he instilled in the rest of us a renewed appreciation of what it means to win with dignity and integrity.

A loyal following of students, teachers, coaches, administrators, friends, and fans supported the Cougars. Their support made this a family affair and one that united the entire community.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in saluting this fantastic group of players and their coaches, parents and classmates who made this East Bladen basketball season one to remember. Great job, Cougars!

The 2000-2001 East Bladen High School Cougars (listed alphabetically): Michael Andrews; Travis Andrews; Eric Brown; Sakrid Dent; Aking Elting; James Freeman; William Graham; Coliek Hayes; Marvin McKiver; T.C. McKoy; Matthew McKoy; Rodrick McMillian; James McRae; Cozell Monroe; Jay Raynor; Antoine Peterson; Ritchie Priest; and Wesley Sasser.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSUMER ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a number of concerns that I have been made aware of by the Florida Public Service Commission regarding H.R. 496. In the past week my staff and I have been in contact with the bill's sponsor, Representative BARBARA CUBIN, in assembling answers to the Florida PSC's concerns. For the record I would like to summarize the Florida PSC's concerns and the answers we have received from Representative CUBIN's office.

As a result of these proposed diminished reporting requirements, how would regulated and deregulated services be differentiated to avoid cross subsidization of telecommunications offerings and non-regulated services? H.R. 496 would do nothing to change the FCC's or state commissions ability to differentiate regulated and non-regulated services.

H.R. 496 would leave intact the FCC's cost allocation rules. It would only eliminate the separate requirement to file voluminous CAM and ARMIS reports originally designed for the largest carriers.

How will there be assurance that purported savings from reporting responsibilities will actually be applied toward the provision of advanced services in rural areas, as highlighted in the bill?

Virtually all 2 percent carriers only serve areas defined under the Act as "rural". Their network investment will necessarily be in rural areas.

Rate of return regulation, by its nature, will ensure either reinvestment in rural network infrastructure or reduced rates for customers. Virtually all 2 percent carriers are rate of return carriers.

Many of the benefits of the bill are intangible. It would primarily give carriers added flexibility to respond more quickly and effectively to customer demand and competitive opportunities.

To attempt to tie specific savings directly to specific investments would significantly increase bureaucratic red tape rather than decrease it and would ultimately slow investment in rural areas.